

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Year 1953



ARTHUR LUCAS

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Brackley**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1953 for your area.

Infectious diseases were similar to that of the rest of the County and there was one death from measles.

One is pleased to report that the Water Scheme is now in full operation and is very satisfactory there being only minor complaints regarding the taste of chlorine. It is interesting to note from an Annual Report of 40 years ago that the water supplied to the schools was from shallow wells, and was considered to be satisfactory. Let us hope that piped supplies will now be available to all schools so that they may have good water and proper sanitation.

One also notes that Infantile Mortality, 40 years ago was 101 per 1000 and to-day is 47.6 per 1000 - a great improvement but still too many.

As regards Tuberculosis, 40 years ago 5 deaths were recorded, and in 1953 none were recorded - another great improvement probably due to better living conditions generally.

One hopes in the near future to get on with slum clearance and to reduce the waiting list for Council house tenancies. I feel sure the Council will do all it can in this direction.

Again, I have to thank Mr. Turbitt, Mr. Mayhew and Miss Thomas for all their help and co-operation in the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Dept.,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.

Brackley Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council

J. N. GIBBARD ESQ, J.P.

Vice Chairman of the Council

Rev. H. J. BOYD.

Members of the Public Health Committee

L.T. COL. V. G. TOLER-AYLWARD [Chairman], E. H. BARKER
L. S. PROSSER, LT. GEN, Sir B. N. SERGISON-BROOKE, Mrs.
M. E. JOHNSON, Mrs. L. ACRID (Vice Chairman), CAPT. G.
W. M. LEES, H. S. BARTLETT, L. C. BARTLETT, W. F.
GOLDSMITH, and J. O. TAYLOR...

*The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members
of the Public Health Committee.*

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health,
ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health in the Brackley Borough.
Medical Officer of Health in the Towcester R.D.C.
Medical Officer of Health in the Northampton R.D.C.
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northants County
Council.
School Medical Officer, Northants County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. E. TURBITT, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector;

F. MAYHEW, C.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors:

MISS ELIZABETH A. THOMAS.

Rodent Operative:

W. G. BARTLETT.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1953.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,320
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1953						...	3,274
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	£36,817
Produce of a penny rate at 31st March 1953						...	£145

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1000 population)	England & Wales	Northamp- tonshire
Legitimate	157	94	63			
Illegitimate	11	6	5			
Total	168	100	68		16.2	15.5

Stillbirths

Legitimate	4	—	4			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
	4	—	4	.38	.35	21.18

Deaths

Deaths	98	48	49	9.30	11.4	11.51
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil

Infant Mortality—per 1,000 live births

Legitimate	8	6	2	47.6		
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—		
Total	8	6	2	47.6	26.8	24.70

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)

„	„	Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	Nil
„	„	Measles	1
„	„	Whooping Cough	Nil
„	„	Infectious Diseases	Nil

The registered causes of death were:—

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	1	—	1
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	—	—
7. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	—	3
8. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
9. Hypertension	1	1	2
10. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis: Polio Encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	—	—	—
14. Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach ...	1	—	2
15. Malignant Neoplasm of Breast ...	—	2	2
16. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	1	1	2
17. Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	3	6
18. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	12	20
19. Coronary Disease	7	2	9
20. Other Diseases of Heart	3	11	14
21. Bronchitis	1	4	5
22. Pneumonia	1	2	3
23. Other Circulatory Diseases	3	1	4
24. Ulcer of Stomach	2	1	3
25. Gastritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other Digestive Disorders	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	—	2
29. Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
31. Premature Births	—	—	—
32. Congenital Malformation	2	1	3
33. Suicide	—	—	—
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	—	2
35. Other Violent Causes	1	1	2
36. Other III-Defined Diseases	6	4	10
37. Influenza	—	1	1
38. Diabetes	—	—	—
Totals	48	49	97

Population. The population figures as supplied by the Registrar General for the past ten years are as follows:—

1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
9,050	9,100	8,980	9,150	9,320	9,482	9,674	9,930	10,220	10,320

The natural increase in population, or the excess of births over deaths, was 71.

It will be observed that over the 10 years the population of the district has increased by 1270.

Death Rate 1943—1953

Year	Brackley			Recorded Rate	Northamptonshire	England and Wales
	Total	M.	F.			
1943	164	82	82	17.3	12.29	12.10
1944	195	119	76	20.5	12.65	11.60
1945	175	91	78	19.2	12.34	11.40
1946	100	46	54	11.13	12.00	11.50
1947	149	85	64	16.28	12.43	12.00
1948	97	53	44	10.4	11.00	10.8
1949	124	62	62	13.0	12.07	11.7
1950	124	66	58	13.0	12.01	11.6
1951	127	71	56	12.7	12.13	12.5
1952	92	61	31	9.00	11.04	11.3
1953	97	48	49	9.3	11.51	11.4

Birth Rate 1943—1953

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Brackley ...	17.3	20.5	19.2	22.5	20.44	21.9	17.9	20.2	16.5	18.6	16.2
Northamptonshire	17.91	20.07	18.98	19.17	20.42	17.46	16.19	15.71	15.57	15.50	16.16
England and Wales	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5

Births. The number of live births assigned to this district was 168 compared with 186 in 1952. The birth rate for 1953 of 16.2 is 2.4 per thousand less than the rate for 1952 and higher than the rate 15.5 for England and Wales.

Still-Birth Rate, 1953

Still-Births There were 4 still-births during 1953.

Illegitimate Births. There were 11 illegitimate births assigned to the district in 1953 (6 males, 5 females), which is the same number as for 1952.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE, 1943—53

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Brackley ...	48.9	35.9	17.14	44.5	42.78	29.27	29.8	20.8	30.4	20.3	47.6
Northamptonshire	40.4	38.00	39.17	36.86	35.07	31.67	33.78	29.53	25.26	24.96	—
England and Wales	49.00	46.00	46.00	43.00	41.00	34.00	32.00	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8

The number of children who died before reaching their first birthday was 8.

Maternal Mortality. It is pleasing to note that again in 1953 there were no deaths from Puerperal Causes, or conditions allied to childbirth.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream and water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. The service is entirely free.

(b) NURSING IN THE HOME

The County Council now provide "Nursing in the Home" services and also arrange for "Home Help" where possible.

(c) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Infant Welfare—Brackley
Orthopaedic Clinic
Vision Clinic
Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney

Organised by
County Council

(d) BLIND PERSONS

Incidence of blindness is reported on in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(e) TUBERCULOSIS

The preventive and after-care services as a means of controlling tuberculosis are administered by the County Council.

(f) DENTAL TREATMENT

Details of dental treatment performed in this area may be seen on reference to the report by the Senior Dental Officer for the County which is incorporated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(g) EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

The County Council are responsible for any facilities available for treatment of these conditions.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of District.

Water Supply

For some years past continual references have been made in successive annual reports of the concern with which the public health officers viewed the water supplies in this district which mainly consisted of spring and shallow wells. Such references have urged the Council to proceed with a piped supply obtained from a safe source so as to serve the 26 parishes in the area.

In June 1950 work on the regional water scheme was commenced by the Council and in 1953 the official opening ceremony took place since when each parish with the exception of Warkworth - which is within the area of another water undertaking - is provided with an adequate supply of wholesome drinking water.

To quote the remarks made by Mr. J. N. Gibbard J.P., now Chairman of the Council and who is a most enthusiastic member of the Public Health Committee, particularly in regard to matters pertaining to water supplies "The completion of this water scheme is a landmark in the history of this Council". Mr. Gibbard has worked with the utmost zeal and ability in bringing the scheme to a state of final fruition but not without some disappointments and setbacks along the way to completion, and to him and the Council generally I should like to pay tribute to the progressive policy by which they all were actuated. The scheme will ensure the safety of the public so far as drinking water is concerned and abolish the risks to health through consuming impure water and danger from fire due to water shortage.

The water is actually supplied by the Bucks Water Board and is extracted from the River Great Ouse near Buckingham. It is conveyed in mains to the County Boundary at Finmere where the responsibility of the Brackley Rural District Council starts, and is delivered to this area at an average of 450,000 gallons per day. It is estimated that the final cost of the scheme will be in the region of £300,000, the original estimate having considerably increased due to the unforeseen rise in cost of labour and materials.

In addition to the servicing of domestic premises many farms will be supplied with water.

Progress can now proceed in regard to waterborne sanitation at dwelling houses and in schools.

During the year the following water connections from the Regional supply were made viz:- 1231 to domestic premises, 125 in respect of business premises and 10 schools were also supplied.

A most encouraging and successful year so far as water supply is concerned.

Details of water samples taken during the year are shown in the following tables:-

		Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Aynho	...	7	5	2
Culworth	...	5	3	2
Chacombe	...	6	3	3
Charlton	...	4	4	—
Eydon	...	16	7	9
Evenley	...	10	7	3
Farthinghoe	...	9	4	5
Greatworth	...	9	4	5
Helmdon	...	23	9	14
Kings Sutton	...	7	2	5
Moreton Pinkney	...	11	4	7
Middleton Cheney	...	15	7	8
Sulgrave	...	13	6	7
Syresham	...	20	13	7
Thorpe Mandeville	...	13	9	4
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	...	5	3	2
Marston-St-Lawrence	...	6	4	2
Radstone	...	2	2	—
Whitfield	...	2	2	—
		183	98 or 53%	85 or 47%

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FOR
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING PAST 14 YEARS**

Year	No. of Samples taken and examined	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1940	0	0	0
1941	15	2	13
1942	8	1	7
1943	64	20	44
1944	78	29	49
1945	63	37	26
1946	70	25	45
1947	58	16	42
1948	63	28	35
1949	94	41	53
1950	117	56	61
1951	85	46	39
1952	97	31	66
1953	183	98	85
TOTALS	995	430	565
		56.78 %	Unsatisfactory

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A considerable amount of repairs and renewals to house drainage was supervised by the staff and no less than 89 complete new drainage installations were laid. There were 79 premises connected to the public sewer. More details of drainage work may be seen on reference to pages 11 and 12.

Steady progress is being made in regard to improving the sewerage and sewage disposal works in the area and the position at the time of writing this report is shown in the statement below, viz:-

Statement showing present condition of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal works in individual parishes.

Modern	Adequate	Inadequate	No works
Chacombe	Ayhno	Aston-le-walls	Edgcote
Chipping Warden	Boddington	Evenley	Warkworth
Croughton	Culworth (1)	Farthinghoe	
Culworth (1)	Eydon	Greatworth	
Kings Sutton (2)	Marston St. Lawrence	Helmdon	
Moreton Pinkney	Middleton Cheney	Hinton-in-the-Hedges	
Overthorpe	Charlton	Sulgrave	
	Radstone	Syresham	
	Thenford		
	Thorpe Mandeville		
	Whitfield		

It is hoped that further improvements will be made in regard to those parishes where the works are inadequate or do not exist at all.

Closet Accommodation

It will be noted that 89 pail closets and 4 privies were abolished and replaced by water closets.

Now that mains water supply is available, the provision of water closets in lieu of the objectionable privy and pail type should be expedited wherever adequate sewerage facilities exist.

Shops and Offices

As in previous years all shops were visited at least once during the year. There are no offices requiring inspection.

Camping Sites. No permanent camps were established during the year.

Smoke Abatement. No trouble occurred in regard to atmospheric pollution.

Swimming Baths and Pools. No such places exist here.

Verminous Premises. No premises required treatment for vermin.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits to Premises during 1953.

Inspections—Housing Act ...	...	...	...	183
Notices served	...	...	...	—
Re-inspections ...	...	...	...	93
Inspections—Public Health Act	...	...	...	539
Notices served	...	...	...	48
Re-inspected ...	...	...	...	880
Works completed without Notice	...	...	...	—

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	135
Food Notices Served	...	...	...	...	25
Food Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	30
Factory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	50

Visits to:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	65
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	29
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	4
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	43
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	102
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	79
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	10
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	62
Dinning Rooms	...	...	...	...	13
Schools	...	...	...	...	38
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	...	...	...	25
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	131
Drains partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	5
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	37
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	15
Factories	...	...	...	...	32
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	49
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	28
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	6

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year 1953.

Details of work completed:—

Dwelling Houses

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	27
Chimneys repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Eaves or valley gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	—
External walls pointed or repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness abated generally	...	...	...	...	16
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Walls redecorated	...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings redecorated	...	...	...	...	5
Firegrates or Ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Staircases repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Handrails to Staircase provided	...	...	...	...	2
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Sashcords provided	...	...	...	...	—
Yards and pavings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Through ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	—
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	—
Sub-floor Ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	—
Lighting Improved	...	...	...	...	1
Food Store provided	...	...	...	...	—
Outbuildings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Houses closed or demolished	...	...	...	...	1

Verminous rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	—
Infected rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	5
Water supply laid on	...	...	...	...	22
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	1
Wells closed when polluted	...	...	...	...	1
Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Dwelling houses cleansed (domestically)	...	...	...	...	—

Sanitary Conveniences.

Separate closet accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	1
Privies abolished	...	...	...	...	4
Pail closets abolished	...	...	...	...	89
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	94
Elsan Closets provided	...	...	...	...	7
Closets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
New urinal accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	1
Urinals repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
New closet pans provided	...	...	...	...	2
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	52
New wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	37
New baths provided	...	...	...	...	31
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	93
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Trapped sink waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	—
Sink wastes repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Closet compartments redecorated	...	...	...	...	4

Drainage.

Drains cleared of obstructions	...	...	...	...	29
Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	18
Complete new drainage installed	...	...	...	...	89
Drains connected to sewer, septic tanks or cesspool	...	...	...	...	79
Soil or Vent pipes provided	...	...	...	...	48
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	79
Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	100
Septic tanks constructed	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools constructed	...	...	...	...	—

Nuisances.

Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	3
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	—
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	1

Public Cleaning. A systematic collection of house refuse is in operation throughout the district.

The parishes are served as follows:—

Table No. 3.

Village	Date of Collection	Refuse Tip
Kings Sutton	Alternate Thursdays	
Ayho	Alternate Fridays	
Middleton Cheney	Alternate Thursdays	
Chacombe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Chipping Warden	First Wednesday in each month	
Aston-le-Walls	First Monday in each month	
Boddington	First Monday in each month	
Eydon	Second Monday in each month	
Thenford	First Tuesday in each month	
Thorpe Mandeville	First Wednesday in each month	
Marston St. Lawrence	Second Tuesday in each month	
Culworth	First Wednesday in each month	
Moreton Pinkney	Second Monday in each month	
Greatworth	First Tuesday in each month	
Sulgrave	Second Wednesday in each month	
Helmdon	Second Wednesday in each month	
Radstone	Third Wednesday in each month	
Charlton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Croughton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	First Tuesday in each month	
Evenley	First Tuesday in each month	
Whitfield	Third Wednesday in each month	
Syresham	Third Wednesday in each month	
Farthinghoe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Halse	First Tuesday in each month	All refuse is now taken to Moreton Pinkney, Greatworth, Charlton or Helmdon.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948.

The Table below shows the position during 1953 so far as factories and workplaces are concerned together with the number of inspections made by the public health staff and also the number of notices served for any breach of the Acts.

A few of the larger factories are situated in the parish of Chipping Warden where between 300—400 persons are employed. The remaining factories are scattered throughout the district and are mainly small establishments.

Inspections

Table No. 4.

No. of premises on register.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
24	61	20	Nil.

Cases in which defects were found

Found	Remedied	Prosecutions
20	20	Nil.

Two notifications of insufficient closet accommodation at building sites in Culworth and Eydon were notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories, both of which were promptly dealt with.

Outworkers' lists were received from the Metropolitan Borough of Holborn and the City of Oxford concerning workers in this district. In each case the premises where the outwork was being carried on was inspected and found to be satisfactory for the purpose.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

Much as has been read and heard this year about the Goverments proposed Housing Repairs and Rent Bill which at the time of writing is on the Statute Book: Possibly this may become law by the time this Report is presented to you. The Bill would appear to enable landlords whose property is in good condition to claim a repairs increase on the rent.

The public health staff have devoted a large proportion of their time to the inspection and repair of houses in the area. Details of the visits made and nature of the repairs supervised is shown on pages 10 and 11.

The total number of Council houses built and owned by the Authority by the end of the year was 672. There were 63 completed during the year. Applicants on the waiting list for tenancies of Council houses are 480. The number of houses now under requisition by the Council is 24. No less than 110 hut dwellings are still in occupation It is to be hoped that the occupants of this undesirable type of dwelling will be rehoused as soon as possible and the buildings demolished.

There were 5 applications for grants approved under the Housing Act 1949 by which financial aid is made to applicants who agree to improve worth-while dwelling houses to a good standard of fitness It is to be expected that the number of applications will increase as more publicity is given in the local and national press as to the financial assistance available to property owners who can qualify for the grant.

STATEMENT of HOUSING PROGRESS

(i.e., provision of new houses).

Table No. 5.

		Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position					Post-war Housing Programme				Total No. of Houses owned by Council
		Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites	Developed Sites Houses not begun	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Houses under Construction.
Aston-le-Walls	...			16		16				5	21
Aynho	...					—	9		5	5	13
Boddingtons	...	...	4		2	6					13
Chacombe	...	...		3	14		17				28
Chipping Warden	...					—			18	18	27
Croughton	...	...	6	2		8				11	19
Culworth	...	...	6	5	10	21	10	10	10	11	32
Edgcote	...	...				—					—
Evenley	...	...				—				11	11
Eydon	...	...	8		4	12				9	21
Farthinghoe	...	...	2	6	2	10				4	14
Greatworth	...	...	8	8		16				11	27
Helendon	...	...	8		8	16				10	26
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	...					—				6	6
Kings Sutton	...	18		8	40	66				61	127
Marston St. Lawrence	...	6				6				6	12
Middleton Cheney	...	20	22	30		72	85	10	10	48	120
Moreton Pinkney	...				8	8				9	17
Newbottle	...	...	6	12		18				13	31
Radstone	...	...				—					—
Sulgrave	...	...	8	6		14	9	17	17		14
Syresham	...	...	10	4	24	38				31	69
Thenford	...	...				—					—
Thorpe Mandeville	...	6				6				6	12
Warkworth	...	...				—					—
Whitfield	...	...				—				6	6
		112	4	76	154	4	350	113	—	60	60
									60	322	672

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR		
1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	722	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1695	
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head I above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	—	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—	
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	9	
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the proceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	48	
2 REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	50	
3 ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR		
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By Owners.	—	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—	
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936:—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	48	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By Owners	12	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—	
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	2	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	1	
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1) Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—	
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	—	
4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART 4—OVERCROWDING		
As reported to you last year there are no cases of serious overcrowding.		

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

Food Premises Generally. The year has shown that 407 visits were made to places where food and drink is dealt with for public consumption, an increase on the number of visits made during 1952. This is an important branch of Public Health work to which keen attention is being given by the public health staff. No case of food poisoning occurred during the year although nationally it is said to be showing an increase.

As mentioned previously in my Reports most of the food premises are old in construction and somewhat out-of-date, but the health officers insist upon them being kept clean. A number of Public Houses have been provided with hot and cold water and suitable sinks for the proper washing of drinking glasses. It is now the exception to find a Public House in this area where such facilities do not exist. The licensees state what a boon it is to have ample supplies of hot and cold water. Also that words of appreciation have been expressed by members of the public when they are able to see these new fittings which, if practicable, should always be fixed in such a position as to catch the public eye. It is always encouraging to hear that the public is becoming "food hygiene minded" which is indicative that health education, which is continually being preached unseen and unheard by most people, is in some measure showing a reward for time spent on what is always felt to be an extremely slow process.

Some premises have changed hands during the year. In some cases the change has been a welcome one where a substandard person and premises have been replaced by a progressive person with improved premises generally. At this time of change it is often opportune to bring about some works of improvement to the premises and full advantage of the opportunity has been taken in quite a few cases during the year under review.

When visiting food places, bad habits are sometimes observed in the case of food handlers themselves, e.g., blowing in bags; finger licking, coughing and sneezing without proper use of a handkerchief and, of course, smoking. Whilst other bad habits may directly be prejudicial to health smoking may be considered a sign of general slackness rather than a direct danger to health, although it is unpleasant to find tobacco ash in food. It requires a very diplomatic approach to the delinquent on the part of the health officer with a view to suppressing these bad habits if the harmony, which should at all times exist between the two, is not to be disrupted.

There are 178 food premises in the district and in respect to 25 of these, informal notices were served requiring the carrying out of certain improvements for either structural or cleanly conditions. There were 30 such notice complied with during the year, including some which were actually served during the latter part 1952.

DETAILS OF VARIOUS FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

		No. in District	No. of Visits
No. of Provision Shops	...	49	79
No. of Butchers' Shops	...	11	65
No. of Dining Rooms	...	4	13
No. of Public Houses or Inns	...	40	102
No. of Bakehouses	...	10	29
No. of Registered Dairies	...	31	43
No. of Ice Cream Shops	...	23	62
No. of Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	...	2	4
No. of Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	8	10

DETAILS OF REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS OF FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Benches or tables cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Proper fuel containers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lighting or ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Dairies

Cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water supply provided for washing hands	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Suitable closet accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Unsatisfactory dairies discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
New dairies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Structural repairs made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Hot water supply provided for washing hands	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Suitable closet accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Structural repairs made	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Metal storage bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Apparatus and utensils cleansed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Redecorated internally	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Cafes and Public Houses.

Hot water supply provided for washing hands	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Suitable closet accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Structural repairs made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Metal storage bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Apparatus and utensils cleansed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Proper urinal accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bar sink with hot and cold water provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Redecorated internally	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Meat & Food Inspection. The following statements show the nature and quantity of unfit food which was surrendered to the Health Department during the year.

Table No. 5.

Description.	Weight. lbs.	Weight. ozs	Disease or condition
Tinned Processed Peas ...	9	4	Blown
Tinned Prunes in Syrup ...	1	14	Blown
Tinned Evaporated Milk ...	5	11½	Blown
Tinned Chicken Soup ...		15½	Blown
Tinned Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce	3	8	Blown
Tinned Tomatoes ...	13	2	Blown
Tinned Baked Beans. ...	1	—	Blown
Boned Cooked Ham ...	10	5	Taint and decomposition
Total	45	12	

The Northamptonshire County Council, under powers conferred by the Food and Drugs Act 1938, took samples of various foods, including milk, in this district during the year under review, details of which are as follows, viz:

	Genuine	Standard	Total
Milk	30	5	35
Vinegar	1	—	—
Jam	—	—	—
Tinned Soup	—	—	—
Condensed Milk	3	—	3
Beef Suet	1	—	—
Pork Sausages	3	—	3
Whisky	2	—	2
Gin	1	—	—
Champagne Perry	1	—	—
Butter	—	—	1
Devon Butter	—	—	1
Table Jelly	—	—	1
Corn Flour	—	—	—
Essence of Coffee and Chicory	—	—	1
Ice Cream	—	—	—
Mincemeat	1	—	1
Lemon Curd	1	—	1
Totals	52	5	57

Remarks.

The only samples to receive adverse comment of any kind from the Public Analyst were 5 samples of milk. Three were deficient in solids-not-fat but were quite free from adulteration and two samples were below the presumptive standard for fat. Enquiries and follow-up samples confirmed that all the samples were genuine, but naturally poor. The producers were suitably advised.

All other samples were satisfactory in every way.

Milk Supply:- It has been possible to take only 14 milk samples, 6 of which failed the methylene blue test. A high percentage of failures. But the reason for the unsatisfactory samples was pursued until satisfactory results were achieved.

There are still a multiplicity of officials taking milk samples, some of whose main concern is fats and solids standard of the milk, others deal mainly with the keeping quality or its biological state. How much less confusing it would be to the milk producer if just one set of officials were responsible for milk production and distribution in all its different phases.

It is still noticeable that little improvement has been taking place generally in regard to milk producing premises since the responsibility for control of such places was transferred from the Local Authority to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

The following comparative Table shows the result of milk sampling by your officers over the past 14 years:—

Tabulated below are comparative results of methylene blue tests made on samples of milk taken over the past 14 years.

Table No. 6.

Year	Total	Result			Bad
		Good	Moderate	Bad	
1940	66	25	40%	14	20%
1941	73	40	55%	14	19%
1942	54	31	55%	12	23%
1943	53	34	64%	9	17%
1944	53	37	70%	13	24%
1945	46	15	34%	10	21%
1946	31	24	77.5%	—	—
1947	36	28	77.8%	4	11.1%
1948	19	12	63.2%	3	15.8%
1949	80	40	50.0%	17	21.3%
1950	45	40	88.9%	2	4.4%
1951	74	48	64.8%	11	14.8%
1952	26	21	80.7%	2	7.6%
1953	14	8	—	—	6

Ice Cream. The number of premises selling ice cream is 23, this number being one less than the total of last year. With one exception the premises are registered for storage and sale of prepacked ice cream only. The single premises, where manufacture is permitted, attains a satisfactory standard of cleanliness and fitness for the purpose with a consistently good record of samples tested over a number of years. The storage and sale of prepacked ice cream only, does reduce the risk of contamination or infection of the commodity to a minimum. There were 62 visits made to places where ice cream is sold and 28 samples were taken of which 24 were placed in provisional grade 1, and 4 in provisional grade 2. Quite a satisfactory result as those placed in grades 1 and 2 respectively are considered to be satisfactory.

Nowadays, both young people, and those who are not so young are observed to consume ice cream, in a more or less degree, all the year round. It is now available for the Christmastide party as for the mid-summer garden fete or the school childrens annual Sunday School treat. Thus, constant supervision and sampling of this now important national food commodity would appear to be necessary throughout the whole of the year. This year, no-one was discovered, as in the previous year, manufacturing ice lollies with contaminated well water. All of those which are now sold in this area are obtained from manufacturers outside the district, whose premises are considered to be satisfactory.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases

A total of 197 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year as against 37 notifications received in the previous year. An outbreak of measles and whooping cough during the early months of 1953 was mainly responsible for the substantial rise in the number of cases. Reference to the Table on page 23 relating to the incidence of notifiable disease will show that a total of 17 cases of scarlet fever occurred in four different parishes. The outbreak was sporadic and cases occurred throughout most of the year without any apparent common cause of infection between the various villages and patients concerned, although the major proportion of the cases were amongst the school children at Chipping Warden. The disease was of a mild type.

The case of food poisoning notified was an isolated one and although exhaustive enquiries were made the probable cause of the illness was not discovered. The patient made a fairly rapid recovery.

One case of anterior poliomyelitis was a farmer 38 years old, resident at Chipping Warden. The source of infection was unknown and had no connection with the other case notified at Eydon in the same month and which affected a small boy aged 3.

Vaccination against smallpox was performed on 65 children under 1 year, 8 at 1 year: 8 between 2-4 years: 3 between 5-14 years and 3 at 15 years or over a total of 87.

The number of children immunised against diphtheria was 46 under 1 year: 44 at 1 year: 20 at 2 years: 3 at 3 years: none at age 4: 6 between 5-9 years: 2 between 10-14 making a total of 121 children immunised. There were 37 booster injections given.

The immunisation figures showing the numbers of children in this district who had completed the full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December 1953 are:- 5 under 1 year: 90 at 1 year: 93 at 2 years: 130 at 3 years: 122 at 4 years: 591 at 5-9 years: 575 at 10-14 years a total of 1606. No case of diphtheria has been notified in this district since 1944.

There were 4 children under 1 year and 9 between 1-4 years vaccinated against whooping cough. The combined diphtheria/pertussis vaccination was performed on 15 children under 1 year, 61 between 1-4 years and 2 between 5-14 years with a total of 78. These figures are included in the figures for diphtheria immunisation.

**Incidence of Notifiable Diseases,
(Other than Tuberculosis)
IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES
during the year, 1953.**

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Broncho Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Aston le Walls ...	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Aynho	—	—	—	—	18	3	—	—	—	—	—	21
Boddington	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chacombe	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Charlton	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chipping Warden ...	11	—	—	—	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	65
Croughton	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Culworth	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	11
Edgcote	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eydon	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Farthinghoe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greatworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Helendon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kings Sutton ...	—	—	—	—	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	11
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Middleton Cheney ...	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Moreton Pinkney ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Syresham	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	7
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total.	17	—	3	—	151	22	2	1	1	—	—	197

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Over past 14 years
(other than Tuberculosis)

Table No. 8.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
Scarlet Fever	35	25	18	13	12	10	7	5	6	1	3	—	3	16	154
Diphtheria	3	11	7	7	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	32
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Pneumonia	4	5	4	3	4	2	1	3	2	—	2	6	4	3	43
Erysipelas ...	3	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8
Measles ...	245	120	10	104	6	116	13	49	137	17	29	134	23	152	1,155
Whooping Cough	12	50	6	4	54	12	2	8	12	8	7	28	6	22	231
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	5
Polio Encephalitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	3	—	2	11
Catarrhal Jaundice	—	—	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Malaria ...	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	13
Mumps ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Amoebiasis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	311	213	54	144	92	154	27	68	164	27	48	172	37	197	1,704

**PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1953**

A statement shewing the period distribution of the cases notified
is given hereunder.

Table No. 9.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...	—	2	4	—	4	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	16
Diphtheria... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	22	27	44	49	2	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	152
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	5	—	8	8	—	—	—	—	1	22
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	22	29	48	55	8	13	10	4	2	2	1	3	197

Tuberculosis.—All new cases of tuberculosis, respiratory or non-respiratory, are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. Institutional care, when considered necessary, is arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health and County Tuberculosis Officer in the County Sanatoria.

The living conditions, etc, of persons subsequently discharged from these sanatoria are investigated by this Authority.

There were 8 new cases of Tuberculosis notified—5 males and 3 females—which is a slight increase in the total number of cases for the years 1950/51/52.

Of these, 7 were of a respiratory nature and 1 non-respiratory.

Table No. 10
New Cases During 1953

Age Periods Years.	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 — 1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	1	—	—	—
25 — 35	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	2	—	—	—
45 — 55	2	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—
65 & over.	—	—	—	—
Totals.	5	2	—	1

RODENT CONTROL

Since this service was commenced towards the end of 1950 the number of premises treated has shown a marked increase with correspondingly good results so far as the number of dead rodents picked up after a treatment has been carried out is concerned. It will possibly be remembered that for each dead rat or mouse picked up, at least four times that number can be assumed to have been destroyed without visible signs of them, as many of these creatures die in their holes or runs or in some other equally concealed place.

The Rodent Operative made 1373 visits during the year as against 968 in 1952. There were 1148 rats and 167 mice bodies picked up (715 rats and 131 mice in 1952). Materials used consisted of 1000 lbs of prebait and 51 lbs poison bait, a considerable increase in the quantities used in the previous year which was 483 lbs. 8 ozs prebait and 25 lbs. 10 ozs poison bait.

In connection with the Damage by Pests (Thrashing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations 1950, 30 visits were made during thrashing operations to ensure that measures were being taken to prevent the escape of rats which had taken up habitation in the ricks. Escape is prevented by the erection of wire netting barriers. The usual co-operation existed between the farmers and the Rodent Operative.

A major infestation was experienced on the boundaries of Upper Boddington where, with the assistance of the neighbouring Local Authority, a successful treatment was carried out, since when no further trouble has been found.

The poison mainly used is still Warfarin with continued satisfactory results, whereas, Zinc Phosphide is exclusively used as a poison for sewer treatment. Cymag has been found useful for dealing with rats in burrows.

Details of the work of the Rodent Operative throughout the year are summarized as follows viz:-

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	...	...	34
No. of premises inspected (private and business places)	...	...	128
No. of visits made	...	...	988
No. of premises cleared	...	...	128
No. of survey visits made	...	...	22

Quantity of Bait laid.

(a) Prebait	...	1000 lbs
(b) Poison bait	...	51 lbs

Number of bodies found.

(1) Rats	...	...	889
(2) Mice	...	...	167

Sewer Infestations.

Situation	No. of Manholes baited.	No. Shewing prebaits taken
Eydon	13	4 complete takes 2 part takes
Croughton	6	No take
Overthorpe	10	Ditto
Chipping Warden	7	Ditto
Moreton Pinkey	8	Ditto
Culworth	18	Ditto
Chacombe	8	Ditto
Kings Sutton	12	Ditto
Middleton Cheney	15	Ditto

Local Authority Undertakings.

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	...	9
No. of visits made	...	44
No. of rat bodies found	...	206
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated		13
No. of visits made	...	32
No. of rat bodies found	...	53
No. of survey visits made	...	132
No. of sewer surveys made	...	49

Once again I should like to express my appreciation of the tactful and efficient manner in which the Rodent Operative has performed his duties during the year which, as in previous years, has been done without the necessity of having to serve a single notice for any breach of the Act, which is testimony to his good relationship with the numerous persons with whom he comes in contact

